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BILL

TO

Amend the Laws relating to the Queen's Colleges and Queen's University in Ireland. A.D. 1878.

WHEREAS by the Act eighth and ninth Victoria, chapter sixty-six, intituled "An Act for the advancement of learning in Ireland," provision was made for the establishment of certain colleges, being the Queen's Colleges in Ireland, which have since been incorporated in a University called the Queen's University in Ireland: Preamble.

And whereas the said Act requires to be amended so as to secure better guarantees for the carrying out of the educational objects contemplated by Parliament:

And whereas appointments to the chairs of certain faculties, especially the Faculty of Arts, in the Queen's College, Belfast, have been and continue to be made with the view of obtaining the acceptance of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and of providing such secular education for the divinity or theological students of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland as to the said Assembly shall seem sound and orthodox:

And whereas the withdrawal of said divinity or theological students would be tantamount to the closing of the Faculty of Arts in the Queen's College, Belfast:

And whereas doubts have arisen as to the legality of such appointments being made with such a view, and it is desirable to remove the same:

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Legalisation of appointments to certain chairs in Queen's College, Belfast.

1. In the case of Queen's College, Belfast, it shall be lawful to appoint professors to chairs of secular knowledge, so as to meet the requirements of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

[Bill 26.]

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Appointment of inspectors to report on state of education and discipline in Queen's University and Colleges.

2. On or before the *first day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight*, and in every year thereafter, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland shall appoint three competent persons having no official connection with the Queen's University or any of its colleges, to report on the state of education and discipline in the said University, and the colleges appertaining to the same.

Powers of inspectors.

3. The persons appointed under the preceding section shall, on being so appointed, proceed to examine into the matters aforesaid, and for this purpose it shall be lawful for them, or any one or more of them, at such times as he or they shall think fit, to enter into the premises of the said University and colleges, to summon and examine upon oath or by means of unsworn testimony such persons as to him or them shall seem desirable witnesses, and to inspect and detain such documents and papers in the custody or procurement of the governing bodies of the said University and colleges, as he or they shall think fit; and it shall be the duty of such persons so appointed to make a report on the aforesaid matters in writing, and to submit the same to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland within *three months* after their appointment; and a copy of every such report shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within *six weeks* after the same shall have been made, if Parliament be then sitting, or if not, then within *six weeks* next after the next meeting of Parliament.

Report of inspectors to be annually laid before Parliament.

4. *From and after the tenth day of October one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight*, the twelfth section of the eighth and ninth Victoria, chapter sixty-six, shall be repealed; provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the sums referred to in the said section being annually provided by Parliament for the purposes set forth in the said section.

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Queen's Colleges and University (Ireland).

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BILL

To amend the Laws relating to the Queen's Colleges and Queen's University in Ireland.

(*Prepared and brought in by Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, Mr. Gray, Mr. Biggar, and Mr. O'Connor Power.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,* 18 *January* 1878.

[Bill 26.]

Under 1 *oz.*

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